

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 DOHA 00806 070851Z

21

ACTION NEA-07

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INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY

C O N F I D E N T I A L DOHA 0806

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: BEXP, QA

SUBJ: DOHA AIRPORT PROJECT

REF: DOHA 0692 AND PREVIOUS

1. WE INFORMED BY PROMINENT LOCAL BUSINESSMAN WHO WELL CONNECTED IN GOVERNMENT CIRCLES THAT GOQ HAS DECIDED TO CANCEL DESIGN CONTRACT FOR NEW DOHA AIRPORT WITH CONSULTANTS GIBB, PETERMULLER AND PARTNERS. ACCORDING SOURCE, ONLY OUTSTANDING QUESTION NOW IS AMOUNT OF COMPENSATION TO BE PAID TO GIBB, PETERMULLER. FIRM WAS AWARDED CONTRACT TWO YEARS AGO, AND COMPLETED DESIGN AND TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS MID 1974. PROJECT WENT OUT TO TENDER IN LATE 1974 AND CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT WAS AWARDED TO INDIAN FIRM SHAH IN APRIL 1975.

2. THUS FAR, GOQ HAS MADE NO ANNOUNCEMENT RE CANCELLATION AND OFFICIAL POSITION IS STILL SAME AS REPORTED REFTTEL: MATTER IS UNDER CONSIDERATION. HOWEVER, SOURCE HAS PROVED RELIABLE IN PAST. HE HAS ALSO TOLD US THAT HE IS INTERESTED IN REPRESENTING US FIRM IN NEW COMPETITION FOR DESIGN CONTRACT.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: REQUEST COMMERCE MAKE DISCREET APPROACH TO PROMINENT US ARCHITECTURAL FIRMS WITH PREVIOUS CONFIDENTIAL

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EXPERIENCE IN AIRPORT DESIGN RE POSSIBILITY OF OPPORTUNITY

HERE. GIVEN FACT THAT GOQ HAS NOT MADE PUBLIC STATEMENT ON CANCELLATION, WHICH IS SENSITIVE ISSUE, FIRMS SHOULD NOT RPT NOT CONTACT GOVERNMENT DIRECTLY AT THIS TIME; NOR SHOULD OPPORTUNITY RECEIVE WIDESPREAD PUBLICITY. COMMERCE SHOULD STRESS THAT IT BY NO MEANS CERTAIN DESIGN CONTRACT WILL BE OPEN TO INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION. GOQ COULD STILL BACKPEDDLE AND RETAIN GIBB, PETERMULLER OR NEGOTIATE DIRECTLY WITH SINGLE FIRM. HOWEVER, IF NUMBER OF FIRMS INVITED TO SUBMIT PLANS, WE WANT TO BE IN POSITION TO PUSH US CANDIDATES. REQUEST COMMERCE PASS US NAMES OF FIRMS EXPRESSING INTEREST AND BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF PAST ACHIEVEMENTS IN AIRPORT DESIGN.

5. RE PERINI INTEREST IN PROJECT (REFTEL AND PREVIOUS), IF NEW DESIGN CONTRACT AWARDED, IT ALMOST CERTAIN THAT NEW BIDS FOR CONSTRUCTION WILL ALSO BE CALLED FOR. WILL ADVISE AS SITUATION DEVELOPS.
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